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PART II

ROYDON OF BATTERSEA AND PYRFORD

I

RYDON OR ROYDON OF BATTERSEA

THE manor of Battersea belonged to the abbey of Westminster until the suppression of the monasteries in 1538,¹ and was cultivated in the main by villein or copyhold tenants. Rentals of this estate of the time of Henry III. or a little later have been preserved,² but show no one bearing the name of Rydon, or Roydon as it afterwards became; surnames, indeed, were at that time rare among the tenants. There were some hamlets or subdivisions of the township; Wassingham and Rudon are named in a subsidy roll of 1332,³ and the latter, which later became Rydon,⁴ affords a local origin for the surname. The earliest member of the family here of whom there is evidence is one John Rydon, who was bedell of the manor court in 1379-80 and 1384-85⁵ and is mentioned as a tenant in a rental of 1385.⁶ He is also said to have had a lease of the manor in the time of Richard II.⁷ and was collector of the rents a little later.⁸ In a rental of the time of Henry IV.⁹ occurs the entry:

John Rydon the elder has a cottage with a curtilage,
formerly held by Roger Up. Rent—2s. 8d.

Roger Op was one of the officers of the manor in 1300.¹⁰

In 1394-5 Stephen Rydon was the serjeant of the abbey's manor of Downe in Wandsworth.¹¹ Unfortunately the Battersea records now at Westminster Abbey include but a single court roll, and only one or two rentals. Thus there is no means of discovering when the Rydon family first appear, or their exact succession. The accounts of the officers do not give the tenants' names.

The next to appear is one William Rydon, a "native" or villein tenant of the abbey, to whom the abbot and convent on 4 May 1448 granted his freedom, for himself and his issue.¹² The deed does not assign any reason for the manumission, but probably William had been able to purchase his freedom, for he appears to have been a capable and energetic man. On 7 July 1450 William Rydon, Robert Rydon, Nicholas Rydon and others of Battersea received the king's pardon for joining in the rising of the Commons known as Jack Cade's Rebellion.¹³ "Recent researches have shown that this rebellion was a much more formidable thing than older historians lead us to suppose. It was by no means an outbreak of 'the filth and scum of Kent.' No nobleman, indeed, appears openly to have taken part in it, and only one knight; but apparently the greater part of the gentry, with the mayors of towns and the constables of the different hundreds, rose along with the rebels. The men were summoned as if by lawful authority, and in many districts it is clear that all who were capable of bearing arms joined in the movement."¹⁴

A few years later William Yonge and William Rydon were farmers of the demesne of Battersea under the abbots, and appear to have had a lease of the manor, the grant to them being named as a model in later leases. The only accounts

preserved are those for 1454-5 and 1456-7,¹⁶ so that the beginning and ending of their tenure are not known. In 1457 or 1458 William Rydon sent a petition to William (Waynflete), bishop of Winchester, as lord chancellor. From this it appears that he with Robert Rydon the younger, Nicholas Rydon, Nicholas Aleyn and several others had caused some injury to one Ralph Cutfeu, mason, and had agreed on 13 Oct. 1457 to abide by an arbitration. It was decided that the three Rydots should pay Cutfeu 6s. 8d., Aleyn and the others to pay 3s. 4d., in full satisfaction. The 6s. 8d. was at once paid and the 3s. 4d. was offered, but on the arbitration bond of £20 being asked for Cutfeu said it was at his own house but he would bring it on Our Lady's day next following and conclude the business. Cutfeu did not come, and it was thought he was wilfully delaying the settlement. So Aleyn and the others paid their 3s. 4d. to the arbitrators. Cutfeu then brought a suit against all of them in the London court, and this appeal to the chancellor was the sequel.¹⁶ The result is not known.

There is again a break of forty years. Possibly a Robert Rydon succeeded William. On 4 Oct. 1499 the abbot and convent granted a lease of the manor of Battersea to John Rydon of that place, "husbandman," for a term of 24 years at a rent of £24 13s. 4d. a year, with 8 quarters of oats and 2 of barley. The lease included the site and all the appurtenant lands, Bridge Court and its lands and the "Tenant lands," in the manner in which William Ridon and William Yong had lately held them to farm, reserving the view of frankpledge, etc.¹⁷ John died about a year later, leaving sons Henry and Robert; an abstract of his will is appended to this

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chapter. A similar lease was granted to Henry Rydon of Battersea, yeoman, no doubt the son of John, on 7 Sept. 1520. The rent was unchanged, but the term was longer—31 years.¹⁸ Henry died in December 1531, leaving sons Robert and Henry, both under age. A short abstract of his will is given below. On 23 March 1531-2 the abbot and convent renewed the lease to Robert Rydon son of Henry, for a term of 20 years at the old rent, "as William Rydon and William Yonge lately held them."¹⁹ There are preserved at Westminster a number of acquittances for payments made to the abbey by Henry and Robert Rydon on account of their lease.²⁰ Henry Roydon of Battersea, yeoman, also appears in the public records, for on 10 July 1529 he entered into a bond for £200 to be paid to the king in case Robert Norwych, serjeant-at-law, and William Suliard, esq., should do anything to prejudice the king's rights in the manor of Sandon in Essex. Norwych was acquiring the manor, with lands in Great and Little Baddow etc., from John Mouche and Alice his wife.²¹ Morant in his history of Essex does not mention this transaction, but states that the manor was in the king's hands in 1525, when he granted it to Cardinal Wolsey, on whose forfeiture (Nov. 1529) it reverted to him.²² How Henry Rydon was concerned does not appear, but it is clear from this bond that the family had prospered and that he was a "substantial" man. From a deed quoted below it seems he purchased a small property at Bromley in Kent.

Robert Rydon, the son named above, died at the end of 1538, leaving a daughter Elizabeth as heir. At the manor court in 1541 John son of John Sollers alleged that his father had died seised of a tenement in Battersea held by copy of

court roll, which should have descended to him as son and heir. But a William Ridon had (at some date not named) entered into possession and then surrendered the tenement to Henry Rydon, who in turn surrendered it to Robert his eldest son. Robert had died in possession, and now Elizabeth Ridon, as his daughter and heir, held it, but without any lawful title as Sollers complained. Elizabeth Ridon occurs at the same court as fined 8d. for not appearing among the homagers of the manor.²³

The manor being held by lease for a term had to be re-granted at Robert Rydon's death, and on 4 November 1538 the abbot and convent of Westminster gave it with various lands on lease for 13 years to Henry Rydon, as son of Henry Rydon lately farmer there, at the old rent of £24 13s. 4d. with 8 quarters of oats and 2 of barley.²⁴ The schedule of rents appended to the lease includes the following Rydon tenements: ²⁵

Land formerly of Nicholas Rydon, then of Walter Stoneham in right of his wife, late of Robert Rydon and now of Elizabeth Rydon. Rent 6s. 4½d.²⁶

Other lands, formerly of William Browne, then Robert Rydon, and now Elizabeth Rydon. Rents 4s., 5s. 10d., 4d., and 8½d.

The Corner House, formerly ²⁷ Robert Rydon, now Elizabeth. 8s.

Land formerly of Robert Rydon, afterwards of John Rydon, lately of Robert Rydon and now Elizabeth (free).²⁸ 6d. [This seems evidence that a Robert Rydon filled the gap between William Rydon of 1450-60 and John Rydon of 1499.]

Land formerly of Richard Butler, then of Robert Rydon, Robert Rydon and now Elizabeth.²⁹ 15s.

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Lands formerly of John Solers and now of Elizabeth Rydon.
4s. and 10s.³⁰

Lands formerly of Simon Colyns, afterwards John Rydon,
then Robert Rydon, and now Elizabeth.³¹ 7s.

Blakeditch Lands, formerly of Richard Elyott, afterwards
[Robert Rydon, then] John Rydon, lately Robert Rydon and
now Elizabeth. 6s.³²

Land formerly of Bonsey, afterwards John Rydon, then
Robert and now Elizabeth. 3s.³³

Henry Rydon gave a receipt detailing the stock when he
took the farm over. On the suppression of the abbey he
thought it best to obtain a new lease from the Court of
Augmentations, and this was granted to him on 10 March
1540-41 for a term of 21 years. This would extend his tenure
until 1561.

On 5 July 1539 Henry Rydon of Battersea, yeoman, sold
to Nicholas Harrys, citizen and fruiterer of London, the
messuage and land in Wydmore in Bromley, Kent, which his
father Henry had purchased from Thomas Tong *alias* Norreys,
son of John Tong. The price was £77, to be paid by instal-
ments.³⁴ In 1541 he was sued for a small debt at the manor
court.³⁵ He and another made the great sluice in Battersea
marshes about 1546, as will be seen below. That he continued
to prosper is shown by a subsidy roll of 1547,³⁶ in which the
first assessments in Battersea are thus recorded :

Henry Rydon in goods £36—to pay 48s.

Richard Taylor „ „ £20— „ 26s. 8d.

None of the other inhabitants were assessed so highly.

“ Harry Royden the younger ” was a churchwarden in 1550-1
and “ Harry Royden the elder ” in 1552-3.³⁷

A Star Chamber case of 1558 shows Henry in another aspect. He had married a sister of John Knight of Knight's Hill—a name still used for a road in Norwood—and entertained Knight in his house at Battersea. The youth was "of small practice" and had been pitifully spoiled of his wealth by Sir Thomas Newneham, the plaintiff in the suit. Sir Thomas had at last, in April 1558, persuaded or compelled Knight to make over the house at Knight's Hill to him on lease, and he took possession at once, without allowing (so it was alleged) the owner to carry away his goods there. So on Sunday, 12 June, John Knight rode out to hunt, and he and his companions found themselves—perhaps not altogether by chance—in the neighbourhood of his old house. He went there and entered, wishing to take some of his property. Newneham's servants, finding him in the hall, attacked him with their "broches" or spits, and penned him in a corner so that he thought his life was in danger. However, someone whom he did not know came past the window and slipped into his hand a bow and arrows. He let one fly, and Newneham's servants fled from the room but secured the door so that he was imprisoned. John's companions outside tried to release him, but in vain. Meantime a boy named Edmund Rydon came running to Henry Rydon at Battersea and told him what had happened. He at once went off to Knight's Hill, and took a few companions and called in the help of the constable of the place. Newneham's servants, however, refused to give up their prisoner, and there appears to have been a great disturbance, with shouting and threats and even danger to life and limb. Seeing that he made no progress Henry Rydon then sent to Camberwell for the local justice, who was named Scott; but

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before he had time to reach the place, Newneham's servants thought it best to surrender their prisoner. The Rydon party then went back to Battersea. Sir Thomas represented the matter as a dangerous riot. In the examinations the name is usually spelt Roydon or Roydone.³⁸

Henry obtained a lease in 1563 of all the "tymbre trees and pollardes" growing within the site of the manor of Battersea, for 21 years.³⁹ About the same time he had a dispute with William Roper about part of the lands in Battersea. He asserted that the abbot of Westminster in 1530 demised lands to Sir Thomas More, who forfeited on attainder. Roper claimed under a lease from More, but Rydon (spelt Reydon) denied there was such a lease. Roper also obtained a lease from the Court of Augmentations in 1540. Then Edward VI. having lands called Rydons, once part of the manor of Bridge Court in Battersea, etc., demised the same in 1550 to John Philpot, groom of the chamber, for 21 years; Rydon obtaining them from Philpot. Roper, he said, had recently entered into possession under letters patent from Queen Mary. Roper denied this, saying he had had possession for 20 years until Rydon ousted him.⁴⁰ Henry Rydon here described himself as yeoman. He was living in July 1566.

He died in 1568, being buried at Battersea on 8 July. Elizabeth Ridon (Rydon or Roydon), widow of Henry Rydon of Battersea, "gentleman," Thomas Holcrofte, servant of Sir William Cecil, and Joan his wife, daughter of the said Henry, on 6 May 1569, obtained an assignment from Gilbert Gerrard and John Sotherton of their lease of the manor and lands which Henry had obtained from Philpot as above and from the queen in 1566. Henry's "cousin" Elizabeth (*i.e.* his niece), wife of

William Rydon of Pyrford, is mentioned.⁴¹ Philpot's lease would expire in 1582. In depositions of 1580 Elizabeth Roydon of Battersea, widow, is stated to have been 50 years old and upwards.⁴²

Elizabeth Roydon, widow of Henry, was concerned in a suit about repairing the sluices in Battersea and Clapham in 1582-3. John Leache of Deptford said the great sluice was made about 1546 by John Parke, carpenter, to whom he was then apprentice. Henry Roydon of Battersea and one Master John Lynge of South Lambeth, farmers of the marsh lands, paid the men's wages.⁴³ Elizabeth was still living on 4 Sept. 1592, when the queen, reciting that Henry Rydon deceased and his ancestors had been farmers of the site of the manor of Battersea, granted to her, as Henry's widow, and to Joan Holcroft, widow, a lease of the same for 21 years to begin when that which she had acquired from Gerrard and Sotherton should expire. She had paid £66 13s. 4d. and was to give £5 3s. 4d. rent.⁴⁴

Elizabeth was buried at Battersea on 30 July 1593 and on 28 August her will was proved. This will is dated 31 May 1591, and first of all requests that the will of her late husband Henry Rydon be performed, if any part of it has been left undone. She mentions her "sisters" Bridget Turcke, widow, Knight of Knight's Hill, and Marshe. To her cousin Henry Turcke and his wife she left "my great silver salt which I bought of his mother"; other cousins were Anne Lipscum, John Embersome and Elizabeth Woode. To Joan Rydon, daughter of William Rydon, she left £20 and £10 more which her father had had for Joan's use. To her godson William Holcroft she left £60 and household stuff; to Henry Holcroft

the elder £30, to Ann and Mary Holcroft £20 each, to Thomas and Geoffrey Holcroft and Henry the younger £10 each. To Joan Holcroft, wife of Thomas Holcroft, gent., lately deceased, she left corn in the barn and growing. In her own right she held land called the Lady Acre in Clapham; this she demised to William Holcroft, son of Thomas, deceased, for 1000 years, he (and his successors) to pay 20s. a year to the poor of Battersea. The said Joan Holcroft, widow of Thomas, was to be sole executrix. There were other bequests—to poor widows, prisoners, Thomas and Nicholas Gregory, Anne Woode, Elizabeth wife of William Alofe, gent. (£20), Elizabeth Holgate and John Palmer.⁴⁵

As sufficiently appears by the documents already cited Joan the executrix was the daughter and heir of Henry Rydon. She married at Battersea, on 6 Dec. 1568, Thomas Holcroft, described above as in the service of Cecil, Lord Burghley, and stated to have been a younger son of Geoffrey Holcroft of Hurst in Culcheth near Warrington.⁴⁶ As "Thomas Hollcroft, gent.," he was buried at Battersea on 27 May 1591. They had sons Geoffrey, described as "a captain in the Low Countries," and Henry, afterwards of East Ham in Essex, who was made a knight and had a numerous family. He held high positions in Ireland, no doubt by the patronage of his step-father, and thus the *Calendars* of the Irish State Papers have numerous references to him.

For her second husband Joan married Sir Oliver St. John, a younger son of Nicholas St. John of Lydiard Tregoze in Wiltshire.⁴⁷ He was born in 1559 and intended for the law, being entered at Lincoln's Inn in 1580, but in 1584 he killed George Best in a duel and was compelled to flee the country

for a time. He served in the wars in Flanders and France, and returned to England in 1592. He must have married Joan Holcroft about that time, for in the subsidy of 1593-4 he was assessed in Battersea and Penge for lands of £20 value,⁴⁸ obviously his wife's estate. He fought again in the Low Countries, but was employed in Ireland in 1601, being made a knight at Dublin, and appointed master of the ordnance there in 1605. He retained this office till 1614. He was made Lord Deputy of Ireland in 1616 and distinguished himself by his "intolerable severity" towards recusants; he had to be recalled in 1622. He continued in favour at court, was created Viscount Grandison in the peerage of Ireland in 1621 and Baron Tregoz in the English peerage in 1626. In right of his wife he enjoyed a lease of the manor of Battersea, and in 1627 he was able to purchase the manor in fee. A rental of the manor made in 1621 records that Sir Oliver St. John paid £33 11s. 8½d. for the site of the manor (beyond £4 10s. yearly allowed him) and 5s. 6d. for copyhold lands.⁴⁹ He died without issue at Battersea, 30 Dec. 1630, and was buried on 12 Jan. His widow died soon afterwards, being buried there on 10 March 1630-1. The monument in the church bears life-size portrait busts of husband and wife, with their arms impaled above it. The following is the inscription, cut in capital letters:

Deo Trino et Vni Sacrvm

Olivero, Nicolai Sct. John de Lydeard filio secvndo, Eq. avrato, Anti-qvissimis et illvstribvs de Bello Campo de Bletsoe, Grandisonis et Tregoziae familiis orivndo, Terra mariq., domi forisq., belli pacisq. Artibvs egregio, divæ Elizabethæ e nobiliss^a pensionariorvm Cohorte svvis inde meritis, et singvlari divi Jacobi gratia, in

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Hibernia instrvmentis bellicis præfecto, Conaciæ præsidio.
Qvæstori summo et regis vicario, procomiti de Grandisonis, et
Tregozia de Hyworth in Anglia baroni eidem divo Jacobo et

Filio ejvs piissimo a secretioribvs et sanctoribvs consiliis
Postqvâ is annos honoribvs æqvaverat et tranqvillissime senverat
Somnienti similiter extincto. ∞ Johannes de Sct. John, eqves et
Baronettvs, ex fratre nepos et hæres avncvlo mærentissimo

Mæstissimvs P. in ecclesia de Battersey. Vixit

Annos LXX. Mor. xxix Decembris MDCXXX.

The arms now are : St. John, 8 quarterings ; impaling Roydon :
Per bend Az. and Gu., over all a griffin segreant Arg. queue
fourchée. Lysons in 1792 recorded these arms as—Per pale Arg. and
Sa., a griffin segreant counter-changed.⁵⁰

The progress possible for a "vilain" or servile family is
well illustrated here. The Rydons secured their freedom in
1448, and progressed through "yeoman" to "gentleman,"
and in 1616 the heiress was wife of the Lord Deputy (or
Viceroy) of Ireland.

The Battersea estate was bequeathed to Lord Grandison's
nephew Sir John St. John, who had already inherited the
family estate at Lydiard Tregoz and been created a baronet in
1611. From him it descended regularly to his great-grandson
the celebrated Henry Viscount Bolingbroke, who died at
Battersea in 1751. The mansion-house, which stood near the
Thames, was originally a very large one, but the greater part
was pulled down in 1778. An interesting part was still standing
at the beginning of 1922, when it was finally demolished to
make way for an extension of the mill adjacent.⁵¹ One of the
rooms was lined with cedar and was the favourite study of
Pope, a great friend of Bolingbroke's; the *Essay on Man* is
said to have been written there. An outbuilding only remains.

There were minor families of Rydon or Roydon in Battersea. The William Rydon mentioned above in Sellars' complaint died in 1529, his will being dated 24 May and proved 30 July in that year. The name is spelt Roydon all through. He desired to be buried in St. Mary's churchyard, Battersea, leaving 20d. to the high altar for "my tithes and oblations by me forgotten or wythholden." His wife Rose was to have his tenement and 14 acres of land and was appointed executrix; the remainder was to his son John Roydon. Another son, Harry, was to have an acre, parcel of the tenement sometime Sellars'. Mr. Harry Roydon was one of the witnesses.⁵²

The abbot and convent of Westminster in 1527 demised to Katherine Hayton widow the watermill in Wandsworth called Adkins mill, with a meadow and fishery. All this had by 1551 come into the hands of John Roidon (or Roydon), gent., and he then secured a new lease from the Court of Augmentations.⁵³

John Rydon and Jane Leddall were married at Battersea, 18 Oct. 1574; and Edmund, baptized 11 Oct. 1579; John, 7 May 1587; and Jane, 22 Nov. 1584, were probably among their children. The will of John Roydon of Battersea, yeoman, dated 20 Oct. 1614, was proved in the following February, by Jane his widow and executrix. He speaks of four children, but does not name them.⁵⁴ He was buried at Battersea on 2 Nov. 1614, and his widow Jane on 29 Aug. 1625. Her sons Edmund and John Roydon, on 10 Oct., proved her will, which had been made in the preceding January. She gave 10s. to the poor of Battersea, and made bequests for her daughter Jane Gayton, wife of George Gayton, and her grandchild Ann Reydon. The residue went to her two sons.⁵⁵ John the son of John Roydon

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was buried 26 July 1626, the last of the name to be buried at Battersea.

In the survey of 1621 already quoted the only Roydon mentioned is Robert Roydon, who held copyhold land and paid £2 13s. 5d. rent.⁵⁶

NOTES

- ¹ See *V.C.H. Surrey*, iv. 8, for the general history.
- ² A rental of the time of Henry III. in the British Museum (Add. Charter 8139); and an extent among the Westminster Abbey Deeds (No. 27507).
- ³ Lay Subsidies (P.R.O.), 184/4.
- ⁴ Wasingham, Rydon and Wandsworth are named as contiguous in 1472; *Cal. Pat. R.* 1467-77, p. 308.
- ⁵ Westminster Abbey Deeds, 1806, 1825 A.
- ⁶ *Ibid.* 1809.
- ⁷ *Ibid.* 22953. This is a copy, almost illegible, of the time of Henry VI.
- ⁸ *Ibid.* 1814.
- ⁹ *Ibid.* 1876.
- ¹⁰ *Ibid.* 27515.
- ¹¹ *Ibid.* 27579.
- ¹² Campbell Charter (B.M.), xvi. 9. A fragment of the seal remains.
- ¹³ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1446-52, p. 347.
- ¹⁴ *Ditt. Nat. Biog.*, under "Cade."
- ¹⁵ Westminster Abbey Deeds 27514, 27515.
- ¹⁶ Early Chancery Proceedings (P.R.O.), 26/92. Waynflete was chancellor from 1456 to 1460.
- ¹⁷ Westminster Abbey Deeds: Register Book I., f. 111b.
- ¹⁸ *Ibid.* Reg. Bk. II., f. 162b.
- ¹⁹ *Ibid.* f. 284b.
- ²⁰ Westminster Abbey Deeds, 30541, etc. (Henry), and 30792, etc. (Robert).
- ²¹ Close Roll 398 (21 Henry VIII.), n. 31. There was a "recovery" of the manor in Trinity term, the same year, as mentioned in this bond. The spelling Roydon should be noticed.
- ²² Morant, *Essex*, ii. 26.
- ²³ Court Rolls (P.R.O.), 204/36.
- ²⁴ This lease is recited in full in the lease of 1541; Augmentation Office Misc. Bks. (P.R.O.), 213, f. 121. The term of 13 years would end in 1551, the date at which the 1520 lease would have ended.

²⁵ Comparisons have been added from the similar schedule in the lease of 1532 made to Robert Rydon.

²⁶ Stoneham seems to have held in 1532, but the lease is not always up-to-date.

²⁷ William Rydon in 1532, according to the lease; but it is shown in the text that William died in 1529.

²⁸ Robert Rydon in the 1532 lease.

²⁹ The 1532 lease gives John in place of the first Robert Rydon.

³⁰ William Rydon held in 1532.

³¹ Robert held in 1532.

³² The first Robert Rydon has been inserted from the 1532 lease.

³³ Robert held in 1532.

³⁴ Close Roll 418 (31 Henry VIII., pt. 1), No. 30.

³⁵ Court Rolls (P.R.O.), 204/36.

³⁶ Lay Subsidies (P.R.O.), 185/224.

³⁷ *Surrey Arch. Coll.* iv. 96.

³⁸ Star Chamber Proceedings, Philip and Mary (P.R.O.), 7/6. For Newnham see Baker, *Norhampt.*, i. 293.

³⁹ Patent Roll 5 Eliz., pt. 1.

⁴⁰ Chanc. Proceedings, Series II., 153/1. Henry's lease of the manor would have expired in 1562, when Philpot would have succeeded had he not been bought out.

⁴¹ Close Roll 15 Eliz., part 1.

⁴² Chanc., Town Depositions, bdle. 140.

⁴³ Exchequer Special Commissions, 7073.

⁴⁴ Patent Roll 1394 (34 Eliz., pt. 15), m. 30. Gerrard's lease would expire in 1613, so that the new lease would go on till 1634.

⁴⁵ Surrey Wills at Somerset House.

⁴⁶ *Essex Visitation* (Harl. Soc.), 421. See also *Local Gleanings Lancs. and Ches.* ii. 152, 157, for the Holcroft family.

⁴⁷ *Dict. Nat. Biog.*, G.E.C., *Complete Peerage*. For a sketch of Lady Grandison see Mrs. Hutchinson's *Memoir* of her husband (p. 11).

⁴⁸ *Surrey Arch. Coll.* xviii. 195.

⁴⁹ Rentals and Surveys (P.R.O.), 15/25.

⁵⁰ Lysons, *Environs of London*, i. 40, 41. This monument is the only authority noticed for the arms of Roydon of Battersea.

⁵¹ Walford, *Old and New London*, vi. 470; *Times*, 30 March 1922.

⁵² Archdeaconry of Surrey Wills (Somerset House), Mychell, f. 106.

⁵³ Augmentation Office Misc. Books, 222, f. 131d.

⁵⁴ Archdeaconry of Surrey, Berry, f. 335.

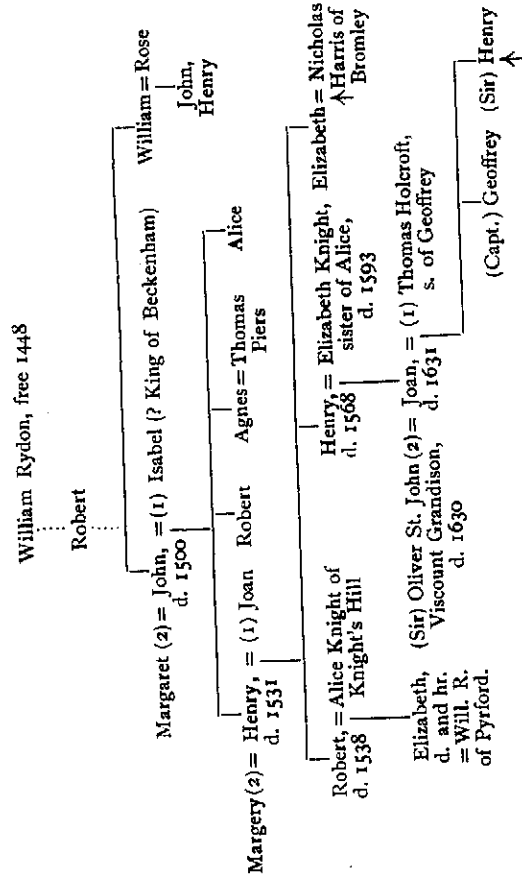
⁵⁵ *Ibid.* Yeast, f. 327.

⁵⁶ Rentals and Surveys (P.R.O.), 15/25.

APPENDIX

I

RYDON OR ROYDON OF BATTERSEA



II

John Rydon of Battersea, yeoman, made his will on 29 Aug. 1500 (16 Henry VII.), and it was proved on the following 15th of October (P.C.C., 12 Moone). After stating, as usual, that he was "in good and whole mind" and that he bequeathed his soul to Almighty God his Maker and Saviour, to our blessed Lady St. Mary and all the holy company of heaven, he went on to direct that his body be buried in the churchyard of Batrichesey, where the body of his late wife Isabel lay. To the high altar of the church, for tithes and offerings withdrawn or forgotten, and to the intent that his soul and his friends' souls might be remembered by his curate

(or his deputy) in the pulpit he left 13s. 4d.; to the maintenance of the light of our Lady and St. Katherine in the church he gave a cow; and to the ceiling of the church roof over the Crucifix he gave all the "quarter borde" lying in his yard, with 6s. 8d. towards paying the workmen. The executors were to provide "an honest priest of good conversation" to sing for his soul, and the souls of parents, wife, friends and all Christian souls. Around his body during the Dirige and Mass and at the month's-mind three new torches of wax (of 20s. value) were to be burned, and given afterwards to the churches of Battersea, Wandsworth and Clapham. To the making of the highway, 20s.

To Margaret his wife, for her part of his goods, he gave 20 marks and all the stuff she had brought with her on the day of her marriage. She was also to have the tenement he had lately purchased of the heirs of Richard Botiller for her life (if she should remain unmarried); then to his son Robert and his heirs. Robert was also to have six silver spoons of the best and the standing maser. Another son Henry was to have the great maser; and the three tenements bought of Browne of London, mercer, were to go to Henry and his issue. A daughter Alice received 10 marks, the best gown and kirtle of Isabel his late wife, etc.; another daughter Agnes was to have a house and land (worth 26s. 8d. a year) settled on her by her husband Thomas Piers, after which the executors were to pay Piers 10 marks. To his brother William Rydon he left his best gown and doublet. John Botiller and other godchildren are mentioned; also Richard Dawe, Margaret Lambert and Richard Hawthorn. None of the children were to meddle with the goods, etc., until they came of age or were married.

To Robert his son and his issue he left all his lands in Battersea except as aforesaid. Should Henry and Robert die without issue, all was to go to testator's next heirs. "I will

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that if my ij. sonnes will goo to scole that than they have all their fyndyng that shall longe unto theym untill the tyme they come to their lawfull age and be of goode governaunce and ruled by the goode discrecion of myn executors." All residue to be divided equally between Henry and Robert.

Executrix: Margaret his wife, with the following co-executors, who were to receive 20s. each: William Kendale, citizen and stationer of London, John Atwell and Henry Kyng.

III

The following are among the provisions of the lengthy will of Henry Rydon of Battersea, yeoman, dated 10 Dec. 1531, and proved about four weeks later, on 4 Jan. (P.C.C., 13 Throver):

To be buried in the parish church of Battersey as near my late wife Joan as possible. Elaborate provisions are made for his exequies, for he wished his executors "to bring me to the erthe honestlye and not to sumptuoslye." Various religious bequests are made. A cope is to be bought for the church having on it, "Pray for the sowle of Henry Rydon and Joanne his wife, oon whos soules God have mercy." To Margery his wife £100; she was widow of Thomas Otley of London, grocer. His sons Robert and Henry were both under age; they were residuary legatees. To Robert he left his interest in the lease of the manor of Battersey, with reversion (should Robert die before 21) to Henry. His uncle Henry Kyng and cousin Robert Kyng of Beckenham in Kent are named; also Nicholas Harres and Elizabeth his wife (testator's daughter¹); and Henry Rydon the elder. There are gifts to servants etc. Executors: Nicholas Harres and Robert Kyng, who are to have £5 each. As to his lands

¹ For Harris pedigree see *Surrey Archl. Collections*, ii. (Visitation).

he willed those in Surrey (in Battersea and Wandsworth) to descend to Robert when he attained the age of 21, and those in Kent (in Westerham, Bromley, Beckenham and Lewisham) to Henry; during minority Robert Kyng was to have the rule of Robert's lands and Nicholas Harres of Henry's. The widow was to have an annuity of £5 out of the lands.

IV

The following is an abstract of the will of Robert Rydon, described as of Battersea, gentleman, made 21 Sept. 1538, and proved on 11 November following (P.C.C., 11 Crumwell):

To be buried in the parish church of Batterychesey as near my father's grave as possible. To Alice my wife £50 etc. To Elizabeth my daughter 40 marks, to be paid on the day of her marriage; but should she die before marriage, one-third to be given to my wife, one-third to my sister Elizabeth Harreys wife of Nicholas Harreys, and one-third to my brother Henry. To my brother Henry all interest in the lease of the manors of Battersea and Bridge Court and 40s. To my cousin Henry Rydon of Battersea 40s. Executors: brother Henry and wife Alice. Overseer: Henry Knight.

V

The following entries in the Battersea registers (1559-1700), which have not been used elsewhere, may be useful:

Baptisms

- 1575. Elizabeth Roydon, 24 July.
- 1577. Thomas Roydon, 13 Oct.
- 1581(-2). Henrye Roydon, 21 Jan.

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1589. Mary Rydon, 30 Nov.
1627. Mathew the sonne of Edward Roydon, 13 Sept.

Marriages

1561. Hugh Platte and Ellen Roydon, 25 June.
1582. Henrie Jackson *alias* Rydon and Jane Heiwoode,
3 June.
1614. Andrew Rud and Mary Royden, 9 June.
1631. Thomas Lewys and Anne Roydon, 17 April.

Burials

1560. Henry Roydon, 30 May [? Harry R. "the elder"].
1572. Elizab. Roydon, 8 Sept.
1572(-3). Alexander Rydon drowned, 18 Feb.
1578. Denis Rydon, 30 Aug.

VI

A Nicholas Royden married Frances Jarrett (or Garrett) at St. James's, Clerkenwell, on 27 June 1619, and the baptisms of children are recorded in the registers (printed). He may have been the father of William Royden of Wapping, who died beyond the seas, and to whose estate the father was administrator in 1648.¹

¹ Commissary of London, Act Book 1648, f. 22.

II

ROYDON OF PYRFORD

It has been shown above that Elizabeth the daughter and heir of Robert Rydon of Battersea (d. 1538) married William Roydon of Pyrford near Woking. William's ancestry has not been traced; he was probably one of the offshoots of the Battersea family, for Pyrford also was a Westminster manor, and the same arms were used by both families. William's name first occurs in the records in 1552, when William Rydon, presumably Elizabeth's husband, received a life grant of the office of woodward in Brokewood within the king's lordship of Woking, at a fee of 1d. a day. One William Hall had been appointed in 1538, but Rydon had acquired his right, and so a new lease was granted.¹ In May 1560 William Rydon of Pyrford acquired from William Porter lands in Pyrford, Horsell, Chertsey, Byfleet and Woodham, and the rents reserved were shortly afterwards released to him.² He appears to have added to his estate from time to time.³ In the subsidy collected in 1594 William Rydon held in lands in Pyrford £6, and William Roydon (probably his son) had in Horsell £5 in goods for assessment.⁴ He died in or before 1611, when Elizabeth Rydon of Pyrford, his widow, made her will, which was

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proved 12 Dec. 1612.⁵ She had been buried at Chertsey on 30 November.

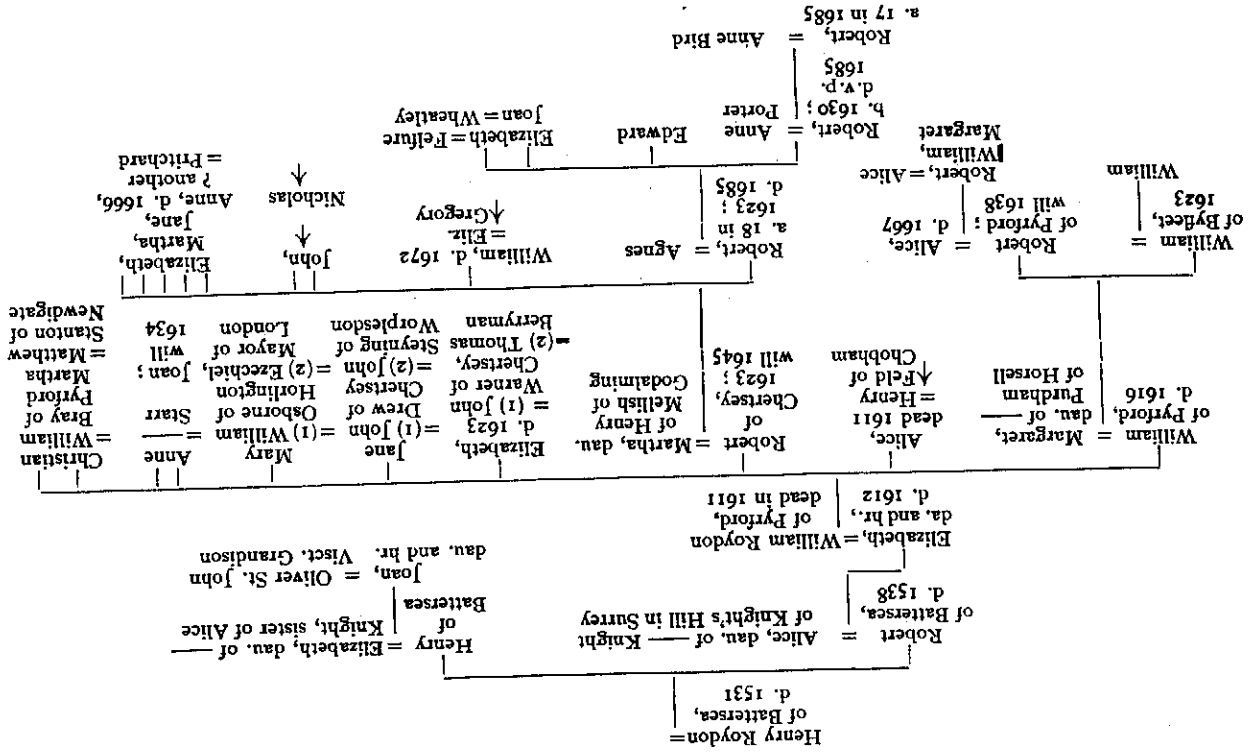
This will, after some gifts to the poor and the church, gives various sums of money or goods to children and grandchildren. Her son William had a daughter Elizabeth and other children. Her married daughters were Elizabeth Berryman (widow of Thomas), Jane Drewe, both having children, Mary Mazyor with a daughter Mary, Anne Starr and Martha Stanton, each with two children. Another, Alice Feild, was dead, leaving a son Henry and five other children. Two daughters, Joan and Christian, were unmarried, to the latter she left £20. John Warner son of Elizabeth Berryman (by her first husband) is named. Testator's son Robert Rydon or Roydon was to have her lands in Battersea and Wandsworth, and was to be executor. His daughter Elizabeth is named, also a son Robert. The overseers were Mr. Nicholas Burley and Mr. Jeffrey Hone.

Information about the family is afforded also by the record of the heralds' visitation in 1623.⁶ The two sons were described as (1) William of Pyrford and (2) Robert of Chertsey. Some account of their lines will be given below, but the descent is difficult, as there are many of the same Christian name, and they appear in various places, so that identification is obscured. The first husband of the daughter Elizabeth was John Warner ; she died on 7 May 1623, and there was formerly a monument commemorating her in Chertsey Church.⁷ Mary's first husband was William Osborne and her second Ezechiel Mayor or Mazyor. Christian married William Bray of Pirford and Martha married Matthew Stanton of Newdigate. Joan remained unmarried, and was buried at Chertsey 27 March 1635. Her will, dated 21 Dec. 1634, was proved on 24

ROYDON OF PYRFORD AND CHERTSEY

ARMS.—*Per pale argent and gules, a griffin counter-changed.*

From the Visitation of Surrey in 1623 (*Hart. Soc. xliii. 179; Surrey Arch. Collections, xi.*),
with additions from Wills, etc.



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June 1635.⁸ In it she is described as "of Chertsey, spinster." She left her house to Elizabeth Roydon, daughter of her brother Robert, with a plot of land lately taken out of the common; she gave 40s. to Robert's son William, and £10 each to Elizabeth and Christian Bray, daughters of William Bray of Pyrford. Other bequests were made to William and Christian Starre, Thomas Berriman, Henry Feild of Fellow Green, John and Elizabeth children of John Russell. After bequests to the poor of Addlesdon and Chertsey she left the rest of her goods to her kinsman John Warner, whom she made executor. Overseers: John Wheatley and Richard Wapshott.

(1) William Rydon, gentleman, in 1611 obtained the royal pardon for acquiring a tenement in Pyrford Worth from Richard Warner and others.⁹ According to the visitation pedigree he married Margaret Purdham of Horsell. He died in 1616, his will being dated 11 June and proved 19 July, in that year.¹⁰ His son William, the elder son according to the recorded pedigree, had perhaps incurred his father's anger, for only 20s. was left to him. Daughters Elizabeth, Mary and Annis Roydon received £40 each, when they should attain 21 years or on their marriage. Jane Goring,¹¹ another daughter, was to have a cow. The wife Margaret was made sole executrix. She and the younger son Robert were to have the use of all testator's lands in Woking, Chertsey, Pyrford and Byfleet for five years, "to the intent that my three daughters by them be well and carefully brought up during the said five years, and after that time I give all my lands and tenements in the said parishes to my said son Robert and his heirs for ever." Another house and some cattle were bequeathed specially to this son. The overseers were William Braye and Richard Bishop.

Robert appears to have had no issue at the time the will was made. He is not described as younger son in it.

The elder son William, apparently disinherited, is named in the 1623 Visitation—having a son William according to one version of it¹²—but little more is known of him, except that in November 1623 he made a complaint in Chancery against Henry Sinnacle of Woking relating to money borrowed by the plaintiff, who is described as “William Royden of Byfleet, Surrey, gent.” To discharge the debt William had surrendered lands in Byfleet to defendant, but the latter was proceeding against him under the bond as if he had received nothing.¹³ In 1628 William Roydon was assessed on lands of 40s. a year value in Byfleet.¹⁴ A William Royden, perhaps the son, occurs as a tenant of Byfleet in a rental of the time of Charles II. (*c.* 1670), paying 3s. 2d. yearly.¹⁵ In June 1707 William Roydon of St. Clement Danes, cloth worker, and his brother Robert Roydon of Byfleet, yeoman, claimed against Henry Martin a share in a legacy to their aunt Jane Martin of Chobham in Surrey.¹⁶ This may refer to this or the following family.

The younger son Robert, described as of Pyrford, was assessed for lands there in 1628, as of 40s. value.¹⁷ In his will, dated 8 Nov. 1638 and proved 11 April 1639,¹⁸ he is described as gentleman. He desired to be buried in Pyrford churchyard, and left 10s. to the poor of the place. Alice his wife was to have the use of all his lands in Pirford, Woking, Chertsey and Byfleet for four years to enable her to bring up his children and pay his debts. His son Robert Roydon was then to come into possession. Robert was to give his brother William £80—half when he had completed his apprenticeship, and the other half four years after; and he was to give his sister

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Margaret £80 when she should be 22. The wife Alice was made executrix and friends named John Baylie and Robert Emmett were to be overseers. In 1651 Robert Roydon of Egham, gent., and Joan his wife sold to Maurice Crockford their tenement in Pyrford, containing 70 acres.¹⁹

One Alice Royden, widow, was buried at Pyrford 25 Dec. 1667. Another Alice, "of Weybridge, widow," was buried there 12 May 1676. She was apparently the Alice who married "Mr. Robert Royden" at Battersea on 17 August 1648; her surname is not recorded in the register. Her will was proved on 20 May 1676; the executors were William and Anne Richardson.²⁰ This will was made on 9 Sept. 1675; she desired to be buried with her late husband in the chancel of Pyrford Church, and a sermon was to be preached on the occasion from 1 Peter i. 3-5. No children are mentioned. She left £2 to the poor of Pyrford and £3 to the poor of Battersea. Other bequests were to Robert Roydon of Woking (40s.), Joan Roydon of Byfleet, widow (20s.), Robert Roydon of Pyrford the elder (10s.), to godchildren Margaret Oldis (daughter of John Oldis,²¹ clerk) and Jane Merryott, Thomas Saunders of Battersea (£5), etc.

In 1694, according to an entry in the registers, George Page and Robert Royden, both of Pyrford, husbandmen, gave evidence as to the payment of small tithes to the curate of the parish.

(2) Robert Roydon, gent., of Chertsey, signed the Visitation pedigree recorded in 1623. For the arms recorded see Rydon of Exeter (below). Robert was in 1628 assessed on his lands at £5, and was himself a "sessor" for the subsidy.²² Under his mother's will, cited above, he had her estate in Battersea,

and paid £2 13s. 5d. for copyhold lands there in 1621.²³ He married Martha daughter of Henry Mellersh (or Mellish) of Godalming, and with her had the fifth part of the manor of Thorncombe Street or Marshall's in Bramley.²⁴ In 1627 the king granted that Robert Roydon and other tenants of the manor of Chertsey should have their fines (on succession) at one year's rent according to the old rent, with other privileges.²⁵ In 1638 he was described as of Talworth in Long Ditton, in an indenture between (1) himself, his sons William and John, and (2) Henry Browning of Wandsworth and Thomas Taylor of Battersey, yeomen. The deed was to make provision for the marriage of William Roydon (Robert's second son) with Elizabeth Gregory, a daughter of Oliver Gregory of Battersea, deceased, and Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Henry Browning, by assigning a tenement at Talworth to Robert and Martha his wife for life, and then to the use of William and Elizabeth after their marriage for their lives with remainder to their issue.²⁶ In 1644 Robert Roydon (perhaps the Byfleet Robert) was admitted to a messuage in Chertsey on the surrender of John Richardson.²⁷

Robert Roydon made his will on 28 March 1645. He left to his wife Martha the messuage in which he lived, purchased from William Crockford, the lands belonging to the manors of Walton Lee and Walton on Thames. For this she was to pay his son John £5 a year, and John would succeed to it after her death. Bequests were made to his sons Robert, William (who had a son Robert), John and Nicholas, daughters Elizabeth (£120), Martha (£250), Anne (£150), Joan, and a grandchild Margaret Pritchett. The residue of his goods went to his wife, who was executrix. The overseers were his son William and

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Oliver Gregory of Battersea. For some reason Martha did not execute the will, and on 28 April 1654 the son John took out letters of administration; over twenty years later, on 6 Aug. 1677, Robert Royden, the eldest son, took out further letters of administration to the effects not disposed of by John.²⁸ It does not appear when Robert the father died. At the court baron of Chertsey on 12 Oct. 1646 Robert Royden the elder, gent., was one of the jurors; and Robert Royden, gent., in the following year, 22 Oct. 1647.²⁹

The son William married Elizabeth Gregory at Wandsworth on 29 Oct. 1638, and children (Robert), William, Ellen (d. inf.), Henry and Elizabeth are recorded in the Wandsworth registers.

What became of Robert the eldest son is not quite clear. Children of Robert Roydon and Agnes his wife were baptized at Chertsey; including a son Robert in 1630. He would no doubt inherit the Chertsey estate and in 1650 "Mr. Royden" held land in Chertsey of the manor of Walton Leigh.³⁰ He is probably the Robert Roydon of Byfleet who in 1644 acquired from John Richardson a messuage called "Nagges" at Addlesdon Heath in Chertsey.³¹ Robert Roydon paid 2s. 10d. rent for his free land in Byfleet in the time of Charles II.³² Then Robert Roydon of Hersham in Walton upon Thames, gent., apparently the same man, made his will on 14 Aug. 1685, desiring to be buried in Walton church. He was buried there accordingly on 19 August. To his son Edward Royden he left the leases of three houses in More Street in St. Martin's in the Fields; to his daughters Elizabeth Felfure and Joan Wheatley 5s. each. The rest of his goods he left to Anne Roydon, widow of his eldest son Robert Roydon, deceased, and

made her executrix. She died, however, before she could assume the task, and on 14 Dec. 1685 a commission was granted to Lawrence Porter, uncle and guardian of Robert Roydon, a minor, son of Anne Roydon, widow deceased, to administer during the minority.³³ Thus there were three Roberts in succession. The second Robert, who had married Anne Porter at Chertsey on 13 Feb. 1666-7, died intestate about March 1685; his son Robert was about 17 years of age.³⁴

On 11 Dec. 1689 licence was granted by the Archbishop's Vicar General to Robert Roydon of Woking, gent., aged about 22, to marry Mrs. Anne Bird of the same place, spinster, about 21, with the consent of her father, at St. Augustine's or St. Foster's, London. Robert Roydon in 1690 bought a covert in Mayford near Woking and sold it in 1724 to John Coussmaker.³⁵ On 25 May 1725 Robert Roydon of Byfleet, gent., made his will, which was proved on 6 July following. He left freehold lands in Byfleet to his wife Anne for life, with reversion to his daughter Martha wife of John Mugliston; and a copyhold tenement to his daughter Sarah. The wife was made executrix.³⁶ The will of the widow Anne, dated 8 June and proved 7 Dec. 1730, makes bequests to her daughters Mary widow of John Tidmarsh, Sarah wife of Nathaniel Yellenull, Anne wife of Richard Harvest (who had a son Richard), and Martha Muglestone, widow (who had a daughter Hannah); also to a kinsman Owen Porter of Staines in trust for Harvest. The daughter Martha was executrix.³⁷ Thus this line ended in female heirs.

William Roydon of Talworth, gent., son of the above-named Robert of Chertsey (1645), made his will on 23 July 1672 (proved 11 Sept.), leaving lands in Long Ditton to his

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son Henry Roydon, and a message in Hersham to his youngest son John. The eldest son, Robert, had been provided for with a competent real estate, and now had a bequest of cattle. The son Henry was made executor.³⁸ William appears to have married a second wife Susanna, to whom he was executor in 1663.³⁹

Anne Roydon, one of the daughters of Robert of Chertsey, made her will on 3 Aug. 1666 and it was proved on 4 Oct. She was buried at Pyrford 8 Sept. 1666, as of the parish of Walton on Thames. She left bequests to her cousin Mary, daughter of Nicholas Roydon, Theodore son of Richard Prichard, John son of Thomas Wheatley, Anne daughter of John Roydon, Sarah and Mary Preston, Frances Mawbanke and Rebecca Cater. Margaret Prichard was to be executrix; she had become the wife of Robert Westcombe before the probate, and was a niece.⁴⁰

NOTES

¹ Augmentation Office Misc. Books (P.R.O.), 224, f. 193. See *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII.*, xiii. pt. 1, p. 137.

² Close Roll 3 Eliz., pt. 13, m. 14. See also Land Revenue Misc. Bks., 190, f. 76.

³ Land Revenue Misc. Books, 203; a survey of 2 James I.; *ibid.* 197.

⁴ *Surrey Archl. Collections*, xix. 84.

⁵ P.C.C., 118 Fenner. The name is spelt Roydon in the margin.

⁶ Harl. Soc. xliii. 179; *Surrey Archl. Collections*, xi. (Visitation).

⁷ J. Aubrey, *Antiq. of Surrey*, iii. 181.

⁸ P.C.C., 59 Sadler.

⁹ Patent Roll 9 James I., pt. 14 (26).

¹⁰ Archdeaconry of Surrey, Stoughton, f. 166.

¹¹ Wife of John Goring of Horsell; Visitation.

¹² Harl. MS. 1433, f. 148b.

¹³ Chancery Proc., Series II., 375/4.

¹⁴ Surrey Subsidy Roll (P.R.O.), 186/439.

¹⁵ Rentals and Surveys (P.R.O.), 25/6.

- ¹⁶ Chancery Proc. before 1714, Mitford 619/26.
- ¹⁷ Surrey Subsidy Roll 186/439.
- ¹⁸ Archd. of Surrey, Harding f. 46.
- ¹⁹ Close Roll of 1651, pt. 2, n. 29.
- ²⁰ Commissary of Surrey, Wills, etc.
- ²¹ John Oldys was incumbent of Pyrford 1669-1703.
- ²² Surrey Subsidy Roll 186/439.
- ²³ Rentals and Surveys (P.R.O.), 15/25.
- ²⁴ *V.C.H. Surrey*, iii. 84.
- ²⁵ Patent Roll 3 Chas. I., pt. 21, n. 1.
- ²⁶ Close Roll of 1655, pt. 31, n. 16.
- ²⁷ Court Rolls (P.R.O.), 204/40.
- ²⁸ P.C.C., 462 Alchin.
- ²⁹ Land Revenue Court Rolls 65/1.
- ³⁰ Parly. Surveys (P.R.O.), No. 55.
- ³¹ Land Revenue Court Rolls 65/1.
- ³² Rentals and Surveys (P.R.O.), 25/6.
- ³³ P.C.C., 155 Cann.
- ³⁴ Commissary of Surrey, Wills, etc.
- ³⁵ *V.C.H. Surrey*, iii. 387.
- ³⁶ Surrey Wills (Somerset House).
- ³⁷ P.C.C., 340 Auber.
- ³⁸ P.C.C., 113 Eure.
- ³⁹ Commissary of Surrey, Wills, etc.
- ⁴⁰ P.C.C., 148 Mico.

ROYDON OF DEVON, KENT, ETC.

THERE was a family of Rydon or Roydon in Devonshire, though only occasional notices of its members occur. Roger de Ridone, subdeacon, was instituted to Botusfleming in 1261;¹ and Alan de Rydon was instituted to a chantry at Holsworthy in 1378.² Such notices of clerks, however, are not satisfactory, as they may not be connected with local families. The name does not occur in the register of Exeter College, Oxford.

The will of Andrew de Rydon of Axminster was made 7 Dec. 1414 and proved 22 April 1415. He desired to be buried before St. Katherine's altar in St. John Baptist's church, and left money for Masses, etc., repairing the ways and other charities. He mentions Alice his wife (residuary legatee), William his son and Ibot his daughter (£40); also John the son of his brother. Executors: his wife, William Huddesfeld and William Keche.³

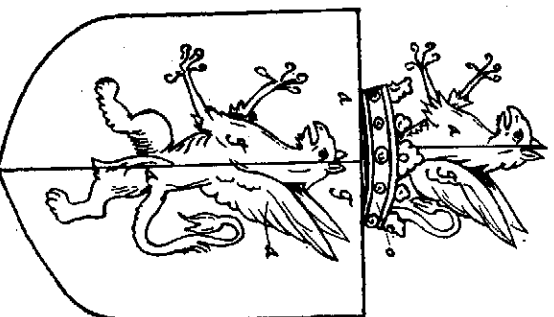
Next we have a complaint made to the Lord Chancellor by William Smyth, mason, between 1443 and 1457. He alleged that he had taken a tenement at Bridford for a term of 70 years from one John Rydon of Exeter, merchant, and after occupying for three years and spending a good deal of money on it,

Rydon (in conjunction with one John Manning of Exeter) had ousted him on pretence of an earlier feoffment to Manning. Complainant was a poor man but Rydon had "great riches."⁴

A later complaint (1475-1480) by Robert Rydon, servant to the Cardinal Archbishop of Canterbury (Bourchier), represented that William Paulyn, deceased, parson of St. Mary Michael in Exeter, had on his deathbed given £20 in trust to pay for petitioner's education at Oxford. The executors, however, refuse to pay, and he asks redress.⁵ Nothing further is known of the story, but an incident in 1490 (see below) may show that his claim succeeded.

It seems possible that this Robert is the "Robert Ridoen of the city of Exeter, gentleman, whose ancestors were most inhabited in the county of Devonshire," who received a grant or confirmation of arms from Clarenceux king of arms in 1494 (9 Henry VII.), viz. "Silver and gules party per pale, a gryffon counter of the same," with a gryffon issuing from a crown as crest.⁶ This coat is that which was in the 17th century assigned to the Rydons or Roydons of Battersea and Pyrford, though no connection between the families is known.

There was at the date of this grant a prominent official named Robert Rydon, who rose to be clerk to the Council of Henry VII. and had other public appointments. There is, however, a difficulty in the identification, as this Robert is not known to have any direct connection with Exeter, his interests being apparently in London and Kent. But as a Robert (of Exeter?) was in the service of the



archbishop of Canterbury as early as 1480 he may have ceased to have any estate in the West Country. It will be seen, however, that there is some evidence in favour of the identification.

Robert Rydon, apparently of London, in 1483-1485, petitioned the Chancellor against the proceedings of William Shukburgh of London, draper, who had a claim for £80 against William Marshall and Thomas Grevile under a bond. He sued Grevile, and not being satisfied then sued Marshall, who had given ample goods as security. Still Shukburgh was not satisfied, and claimed the goods and demanded sureties for £20 more. Rydon agreed to be one of the sureties and now found himself in danger, for though Shukburgh had had the full value of his £80 bond, he refused to surrender this bond.⁷

In 1482 Robert Rydon, the king's servant, was appointed to be the king's promoter in all causes in the Admiralty Court, with a stipend of 20 marks a year.⁸ In 1484 he (as Master Robert Rydon) was made one of the king's commissaries general in the Admiralty of England.⁹

Somewhat later William Oset of Exeter made a complaint against Robert Rydon, as executor of Richard Turnour. He said that Turnour and Anthony Iswyn were bound in 100 marks to Robert Chubbe and Oset himself, for the latter's benefit. Chubbe having released all claims to Rydon, and thus barred any claim by Oset alone, he fears the total loss of his money, and asks a remedy.¹⁰

In 1486, Robert Rydon, gent., was one of the feoffees of John Blakborne, citizen and barber of London.¹¹ Two London merchants in 1490 complained that Master Robert Rydon, bachelor in laws, commissary and lieutenant of the earl of Oxford as admiral of England, had decided unjustly against

them in a case in the Admiralty Court concerning their ship the *Trinity* of London, and the king ordered inquiry.¹² The result appears to have been favourable to Rydon, who was not removed from office. The degree mentioned shows a university course ; so that the Robert Rydon, formerly a petitioner to the chancellor, may have gone to Oxford after all. The university register is defective at that time. Robert Rydon was employed in the Star Chamber Court in 1491,¹³ and one of the judges in a maritime case in 1493.¹⁴ In 1497 he was clerk of the Council.¹⁵ He was one of a large commission appointed in August 1497 to hear and decide all offences in the county of Devon.¹⁶ This was after the suppression of the Cornish rebellion under Flamank, and when the incursion of Perkin Warbeck was daily expected. His appointment may be an indication of a Devonshire origin, but may have been due simply to his official position. In June 1499 Robert Rydon, vice-admiral and clerk of the Council, was commissioned to act as plenipotentiary for the conclusion of peace with King James of Scotland.¹⁷ He continued to act as clerk of the Council and deputy of the earl of Oxford, admiral of England, until just after the accession of Henry VIII.¹⁸ when he died.¹⁹ In a general pardon issued to him (as to many others) in June 1509, he is described as

Robert Ridon of London, gent.,

Robert Ridon, clerk of the Council of Henry VII.,

Robert Ridon, lieutenant or commissary of John earl of Oxford, admiral of England,

Robert Rydon of Wulwych, gent.,

Robert Rydon, justice of the peace in Kent,

Robert Rydon, gent., one of the late King's commissioners in

Devon, Cornwall, Somerset and Dorset for fines on his subjects there,

Robert Rydon, receiver of the said commissioners,
Robert Rydon, gent.²⁰

He was a justice of the peace in Kent from 1501 to 1506.²¹

Robert Rydon acquired the manor of East Wickham in Kent, with lands there and in Plumstead, Bexley and Woolwich, in May 1499, from William Poynes or Poyntz.²² There was a recovery in the king's court in the following Michaelmas term, Richard bishop of Durham, Edward Poninges, kt., John Risley, kt., Richard Guldeford, kt., and Richard Chamberleyn acting with Rydon as demandants.²³ He appears to have sold or leased them to the abbey of Westminster in 1503,²⁴ and in 1535 the abbey's estate in Wickham in Kent was liable (among other outgoing) for a rent of 8s. 8d. to "the heirs of Ryden."²⁵

By his will, dated 19 July 1508 and proved 20 Nov. 1509, Robert desired to be buried in the tomb of his late wife Agnes in St. Dunstan's in the East, London, should he die in the city. He left legacies to churches (including Woolwich). He mentions Richard Turnour, "husband of my mother," while they lived. [In an Exeter petition cited above Robert Rydon is named as executor of Richard Turnour.] He also mentions a suit in which he had been engaged concerning the manor of Bethom and to which Lord Strange was a party. The abbot of Boxley in Kent appears to have been a special friend, and various bequests were made to him. Testator's wife Margaret, son John, daughter Elizabeth, and brother Ralph had bequests; the son (under age) having a gold chain and moneys from the sale of woods at Wickham. The wife and

Ralph the brother were to be executors. His lands at Wickham, Welling, Bexley, and Plumstead were to be in his wife's hands until the son John should come of age; other land in Woolwich, held by Richard Chamberlain for life, was to revert to the daughter Elizabeth.²⁶ There is no mention of Exeter or Devonshire.

Archbishop Warham sent the following undated letter "To Master R. Rydon," who added "to delyver to oon of the clerkes of the Previsseale in hast":

I commende me unto you, desiring that ye helpe the power preest berar herof to the short expedicion of letters yevyn undre the privet seale directid to suche persones and for suche causes as the bil her enclosed doeth specifie, with that they appere in the tyme and place rehersed in the saide bil. So that ye kepe the same bil of complaynt, that hit may be when hit shalbe tyme exhibited in the Ster Chambre. Yevin at Croydon the vjth day of June.

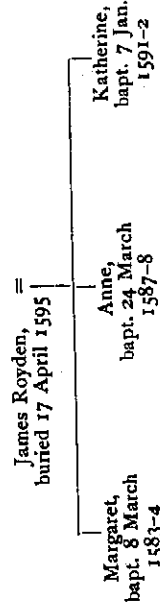
(Signed by the Archbishop) WILL^M CANTUAR.

Rydon has written below it an order as requested for a privy seal to be directed to John Spynk senior and junior and other persons to appear to answer a charge of riot. The elder Spynk was to bring his wife and daughter. It is signed "R. Rydon."²⁷

There were Roydons in Kent before either this Robert Rydon or Thomas Roydon of East Peckham settled in the county. Thus on 1 April 1404 Geoffrey Welde of East Peckham quitclaimed to Richard Roytone of the same place and Anne his wife all right in land called Westfield which Welde had held in conjunction with Roger Oxbroke and John Tannere by gift of William Godyng and John Laurans.²⁸ A John Roydon of

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Dartford made his will on 4 April 1462; he names Alice his wife but no other kinfolk.²⁹ William Royden, rector of Paul's Cray, made his will on 16 April 1540; he desired to be buried in the chancel, and left £10 to the church. He had land at Farningham. The will was proved 9 July 1541 by the executors Joan Reskew and Thomas Sibyll, esq., but they afterwards renounced, and administration was granted to Joan.³⁰ Other occurrences of the name can be collected from the printed registers, Drake's edition of Hasted's *Blackheath Hundred*, etc. Thus Streatfeild gives numerous Roydon entries from West Farleigh and Hadlow, and this fragment of pedigree derived from the Mereworth parish registers:³¹



Richard Roydon of West Malling made his will on 2 May 1627 (it was proved 6 June), leaving his house to his son Francis and another house to his daughter Elizabeth; his wife Alice was to be the executrix.³²

The surname also occurs in other counties. In Middlesex in 1341 John de Beauchamp (Bello Campo) of Somerset acquired from Henry de Roydone and Joan his wife and from Alice widow of William Raghener of Littleton their portions of a tenement in Littleton and Shepperton.³³ These places are not far from Chertsey, where Roydons were later settled, as shown above. The Christian name Henry was a favourite in the Battersea family. In London Robert Rydon, clerk, was a feoffee in 1371;³⁴ and William Roydon was a juror in 1530-1533.³⁵ John Raydon or Roydon, citizen and pewterer of

London, obtained in 1531 a lease of messuages for forty years,³⁶ and made his will 16 May 1536, desiring to be buried in St. Nicholas Acon, near Lombard Street. His goods were to be divided into three equal parts—one for his funeral expenses, one for his wife Anne (executrix) and one for his sons John and Thomas. The will was proved 17 Dec. the same year.³⁷ Philip Royden of London, merchant, was defendant in 1598 to claims by Henry Everard of Long Melford, for a moiety of the profits on their joint shipments of goods to and from France.³⁸ There were cross-suits by Royden.

John Roydon, a native of Saxony and licentiate of medicine, obtained letters of denization in 1529.³⁹ He was physician to archbishop Warham, and in 1539 was appointed physician to the priory of Christ Church, Canterbury, with a yearly fee.⁴⁰ In 1545 and later he lived at Cuddesdon, the advowson of Little Wilbraham being assigned to him and Edmund Wyndsor, probably in trust, and the site of Cuddesdon manor (late of Abingdon Abbey) being demised to him by the Crown at a rent of £12.⁴¹

Edward Roydon, whose interesting letter follows, may have been a son of the above John, for he was a physician. His "German sister" was no doubt a sister by blood.⁴²

JHESUS

Right worshipfull. After my retourne from Turveye in Bedfowrdshire on Saturdaie last, I was geven to understand the enquirie made for me by an officer to sommon my apparaunce befor your worsh. at Northampton. And as I suppose rightelie enfourmed also that the cawse of that sommanse was uppon hir M^{tes} commission to yeld or be taxed by your worshippe for recusancie as other in like case. Good Sir, for

my not appaunce that daye I humblye crave pardon wth faithfull protestation to your worsh^e that I had no manner knowledge therof till the daye of appaunce was passed. And for the matter of contribution or paymente to hir maiestie (by whose goodnesse I enioye all benefits in this state) I humblye submitt me (as dutie requireth) to your worshippes, either all iointelye, or to your self in speciall, to be imposed accordinge to your conscience, and discretion, hopinge that theruppon I shall be exempted and set free, by hir maiesties said favoure & goodnesse, from all suche molestations and ponishmentes as by severitie of lawes might be extended for the cawse aforesaid. Onlye this I humblye crave (and by your wisdomes and equitie have good hope to obtayne) that you will here in vouchesave to take a true knowledge of my estate and abilitie, w^{ch} beinge best knowen to my selfe, and yet not hidden to dyverse other I will (howe muche so ever to my enbasement) faithfullye laie downe before your Worshippes. First yt is verye true that I have neyther howse, land, rente, annuitye, pensõ or stock of cattaille, nor owght elles to lyve by, but onlye the harde and casuall gaynes of my practise in phisike, when my healthe, & charge besyde, will permitte me to followe yt, w^{ch} gaines also for certaine yeres have bene so muche the lesse becawse I had no howse, or knowen place of staie, wher persons in their nede of my service might hope to fynd me, &c. And duringe that tyme, as also at this presente, I have had dependinge uppon my onlye provision, for ther hole relief and mainteynaunce thre yonge children of myne owne, one poore orphan of my germaine sisters, besides two of my sisters in service partelye maintained by me, till they obtayne ther due legacies. This (right worshipp.) is my state and charge to the same annexed, wherof I desier yow to have charitable consideration. And as for pryvie wealthe, I protest before your Worshippes, yf God shold presently call me out of this world, yt is scarce sufficient to sustaine those helpelesse creatures that I shall leave behynd

mee one hole yere; All this aforsaid notwithstandinge, to shewe my dutifull goodwill to my prince and the state wherin I have had and hope to have such favoure for my conscience in respect of the lawes established, I do by this my handwritinge verie willinglye and gladlye offer to paye for the j shilling by the yere, so longe as God shall send me healthe and abilitie to get yt. And humblye do crave of yow (good worshipfull) who eyther do alridye knowe, or maye easilie by credible persons be resolved, of the truthe in all thinges w^{ch} I have said to further and procure the acceptation of this small somme, w^{ch} I so willinglye (to the uttermost of my abilitie) do offer, for that great benefite of hir maiesties tolleracion and gracious favour, Wherby I maie lyve more quiet and maintayne my poore familie. So shall I stand bownd to supplye my want of substaunce with daielye praiers and abundaunce of loyall good will to hir m'tie the authour of this benefite, as also to be a detter of humble thanks & service to your worshippes. Who by your favour & equitie, have made me partaker therof. And thus craving pardon for my tedious boldnesse wth your worsh. to God I most hartilye commend yow, wth my good ladye and all yours. From Glason in Rutland, wher I have remayned not able to traveile, by occasion of extreme payne renewed uppon an old hurte in my back, the xij of this Maye [1586]

Your worsh: allwayes

* at commaundement

* E. ROYDON.

To the right Worshipfull Sir Edward Mountague knyght, at Bowghton or elles wher geve these.

Tomazina Roydon, servant of Jane Flower of Whitwell in Rutland, appears with her mistress on the recusant roll of 1592-3.⁴³

* These two lines seem to be in one hand and differ from the rest. The writer is called Edward Roydon in the covering letter.

NOTES

- ¹ Hingeston-Randolph, *Bronescombe's Reg.* 117.
- ² Idem, *Grandisson's Reg.*, 1645 (index).
- ³ P.C.C., 32 Marche.
- ⁴ Early Chancery Proceedings, 15/170.
- ⁵ *Ibid.* 59/296.
- ⁶ Harl. MS. 1116, f. 37*d*. In Harl. MS. 5887, f. 50 is a brief note of it, with the erroneous date 9 Henry VIII., and the copyist's addition: "Roydon or Rydon, but I find it Roydon." The coat in the margin is traced from the latter MS.
- ⁷ Early Chancery Proceedings, 65/32.
- ⁸ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1476-85, p. 343.
- ⁹ *Ibid.* p. 392.
- ¹⁰ Early Chancery Proc. 152/38.
- ¹¹ Close Roll 347 (2 Hen. VII.), n. 30.
- ¹² *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1485-94, p. 350.
- ¹³ *Hist. MSS. Com. Report*, ix. 147.
- ¹⁴ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1485-94, p. 475.
- ¹⁵ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1494-1509, p. 115.
- ¹⁶ *Ibid.* p. 145.
- ¹⁷ *Ibid.* p. 180.
- ¹⁸ *Ibid.* pp. 246, 290, 461, 506; *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII.* i. 65 (n. 43).
- ¹⁹ *Letters and Papers*, i. 111 (n. 44); John Mewtys was appointed clerk 17 Oct. 1509.
- ²⁰ *Ibid.* 260; Patent Rolls Supplementary, 59, m. 7.
- ²¹ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, 1494-1509, p. 645.
- ²² Close Roll 359 (14 Hen. VII.), n. 49.
- ²³ De Banco R. 950 (Mich. 15 Hen. VII.), m. 155.
- ²⁴ Westminster Abbey Deeds, No. 5172.
- ²⁵ *Valor Eccles.* i. 419.
- ²⁶ P.C.C., 2 Fetiplace. In the margin is written "Mr. Robert Rydon."
- ²⁷ Cotton MS. Vesp. F. xiii. f. 75*b*.
- ²⁸ Bodleian Charters (Oxford), Kent 212.
- ²⁹ Rochester Wills (Somerset House), ii. f. 265*b*.
- ³⁰ *Ibid.* ix. 295. This rector is not mentioned by Hasted.
- ³¹ Add. MS. 33890 (B.M.), No. 573*d*.
- ³² Rochester Wills (Som. House).
- ³³ *Middx. Feet of Fines*, 116, 117.
- ³⁴ Husting Deeds enrolled at London Guildhall.
- ³⁵ *London Inq. p.m.* (Index Soc.), i. 48, etc.

³⁶ Husting Deeds enrolled.

³⁷ P.C.C., 37 Hogan. A Thomas Royden was living in the parish in 1543, as appears by the register.

³⁸ Chancery B. and A., Eliz. E. E. 3/21.

³⁹ *Letters and Papers Hen. VIII.* iv. pt. 3, p. 2311.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.* xiv. pt. 2, p. 204.

⁴¹ Add. MS. 5825, f. 6; Harl. MS. 607, f. 4.

⁴² S. P. Dom. Eliz. 189, No. 47 (ii.), f. 122.

⁴³ *Catholic Record Soc.*, xviii. 239.